

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7961

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, ABLD

SUBJECT: LOBBY CONTROLS-PROGRAM TO COMBAT TERRORISM

REF: ABIDJAN 7625

1. AF/EX DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SWEDENBURG, DRAFTER OF THIS MESSAGE, HAS FOR PAST YEAR BEEN TRAVELING AND HAS VISITED MOST OF THE REFTEL ADDRESSEE POSTS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INSTRUMENTAL IN POINTING OUT THAT THE LOBBY RENOVATIONS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED FOR NIAMEY WERE EXTENSIVE, BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF POST RESOURCES, AND WOULD BE ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE WITH ON-SITE FBO OR OTHER IMPORTED ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION AND WORK FORCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB.

2. WHAT PRICE DO WE PAY TO COMBAT TERRORISM? SOME OF OUR EMBASSIES OUT HERE HAVE PHYSICAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE LAUGHABLE AND CHILD'S PLAY TO EVEN FUMBLING SECOND-STORY MAN LET ALONE A TERRORIST TRAINED IN THE ARTCRAFTS OF ASSASSINATION AND FEAR. SOME OF OUR EMBASSIES HAVE SOME MEASURES OF PROTECTION BUT NONE OF THEM ARE COMPLETELY INVULNERABLE TO A DEDICATED TERRORIST.

MOST OF THE SAFEGUARDS WE HAVE INSTALLED IN SOME OF THESE "MORE PROTECTED" ESTABLISHMENTS ONLY CONFUSE THOSE WHO MUST LIVE AND WORK IN THE PREMISES AS WELL AS THOSE, BOTH PRIVATE AMERICAN AND NON-AMERICANS, WHO CALL AT OUR EMBASSIES FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER REASONS, INCLUDING THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE. THE NUMBER OF LOCKS, GATES AND OTHER BARRIERS (OFTEN WITH MALFUNCTIONING MECHANISMS) CONFRONTING WORKER AND VISITOR ALIKE HAVE NUISANCE VALUE AT LEAST. LIKEWISE, MARINE GUARDS WHO SIT BEHIND PLASTIC PROTECTION (THE TERM IS INTENDED IN BOTH THE PRACTICAL AS WELL AS LITERARY SENSE) AND WHO OFTEN CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THEIR CAGE BECAUSE

THE INTERCOM DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK, HAVE A RIGHT TO FEEL DEJECTED AND AS FRUSTRATED AS THOSE OUTSIDE THE CAGE.

3. THIS MESSAGE IS NOT INTENDED TO TREAT THE THREAT OF TERRORISM LIGHTLY. IT IS INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED REFTEL. THE DRAFTER ALSO HOPES IT BRINGS HOME THAT EVEN WITH VARYING LOCAL SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN AFRICA, THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSISTENT POLICY OF APPLYING THE STANDARDS OF A-4779 OUT HERE. NOT THAT HE IS SURE THEY ARE NEEDED. IT IS IRKSOME TO KEEP BEING REMINDED THAT ALL OF THESE SECURITY SAFEGUARDS ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE IT IS THE SIGN OF OUR TIME AND THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN. THERE ARE A HOST OF US WHO WOULD PREFER TO RISK A LITTLE DANGER AND REVERT TO A MORE NORMAL AND TRADITIONAL SETTING AT OUR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PREMISES WHERE WORKERS AND VISITORS ARE NOT DEPRESSED BY THE BASTION-LIKE APPEARANCE OF SO MANY OF OUR PRESENT-DAY ESTABLISHMENTS. BUT IF WE MUST MAINTAIN ALL OF THESE BULWARKS, LET US AT LEAST GO ABOUT IT IN A SENSIBLE, AND CONSISTENT, WAY, WHICH IS REALLY WHAT REFTEL IS ALL ABOUT.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY MAKE SUCH ADDED DISTRIBUTION AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE. KILLION

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